

Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

Report on the Israeli Colonization Activities in the West Bank & the Gaza Strip

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August 6, 2000

- The Israeli Supreme Rabbinate Council planed to build a Jewish synagogue at the courtyard of Al-Aqsa mosque in East Jerusalem. The head of the Supreme Islamic Commission of Jerusalem Ikrima Sabri considered the Israeli plan as “hostile and dangerous design that can’t be overlooked by Muslims in Palestine and the world.” Sabri called for holding an Islamic summit to discuss ending the occupation of Jerusalem. *Quds & PIC*
- A group of Jewish settlers attacked dozens of Palestinian villagers and shepherds from Salim village, east of Nablus. They also wounded four citizens and stole nearly 50 heads of sheep, trying to force them to leave their lands, in an attempt to be annexed to Elon Moreh settlement. Moreover, the land to be expropriated, is estimated at hundreds of dunums, and owned by Salim villagers. *Jadeda*

August 7, 2000

- The High Court of Justice rejected two petitions requesting that the authorities put a stop to illegal construction by the Muslim Waqf religious trust on the Temple Mount. In one of the petitions, attorney Shmuel Kaspar asked the court to order the demolition of two structures erected by the Waqf in the southern area of the Temple Mount and the removal of four large iron containers. The second petition, filed by the Temple Mount Faithful group, claimed that the Waqf was illegally laying paving tiles across a large swath of the

southern section of the Temple Mount and destroying Jewish archaeological remains in the process. *Haaretz*

- According to *Haaretz* daily newspaper, Jewish settlers have stepped up illegal construction in outposts in the West Bank. All construction on these outposts was frozen under the terms an agreement reached ten months ago between PM Barak and the Yesha Council. Some of the outposts that have breached the prohibition on construction are:
 - 1 Hilltop 777 beside Itamar (southeast of Nablus)- A shipping container was set up.
 - 1 Hilltop 736 beside Bracha – A concrete platform was poured and a new road made.
 - 1 Hilltop 859 (Achia lookout) near Shvut Rachel, north of Ramallah- A new concrete building was erected.
 - 1 Nof Kanef, beside Karnei Shomoron- A few caravans were set up.
 - 1 beside Ofra, north of Ramallah- the security road was extended to surround agricultural land owned by Palestinians, making access to the land difficult.
 - 1 Har Emunah, beside Ofra- three caravans have been added.
 - 1 Givat Ha'ai beside Psagot, east of Ramallah- two caravans were set up on private land that is owned by a resident of El Bireh.
 - 1 Givat Hahish beside Efrat- Caravans were set up.
 - 1 The Tene-Mor outpost, near the settlement of Tene Omrim, south of Har Hebron- an illegal caravan was set up.
- The Israeli Police is planning the construction of a new prison compound in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in East Jerusalem to replace the current holding cells at the Russian Compound. The new complex will also include a new headquarters for the Jerusalem District Police. The area at stake includes some 29 dunums that the government expropriated in 1968. Some of the land was owned by 1948 refugees, from the village of Lifta and other plots belong to residents of Jerusalem and Issawiya. *Haartz*
- As a preparation to seize more Palestinian land and expand existing settlements in Nablus District, Jewish settlers attacked Palestinian land in Salim village, east of Nablus. They assailed some farmers and expropriated their cattle. *Quds*

August 9, 2000

- Israel plans to establish border-crossing terminals near the border of the Palestinian State at Jalameh (near Jenin), Qalqiliya, Tulkarm, Maccabim, Tarqumiya and Shemah. Under the plan, aside from these crossing terminals, there will be total separation between Israel and the Palestinian State. Two types of crossing terminals will be requested. A larger full-service model, to be set up at the Jenin, Qalqiliya and Tarqumiya areas, will feature a cargo inspection terminal, services to allow Palestinian workers to cross the border on a daily basis. The second type of facility will deal exclusively with Palestinian workers. This scaled-down terminal slated for three sites: Tulkarm, Maccabim and Shemah. *JPost*
- According to *Al-Quds* newspaper, Al-Kare'en family from Selwan village, Jerusalem, was exposed to the Israeli army assault that caused the injury of two brothers, a wife of one of them and three of their sons. *Quds*

August 10, 2000

- Palestinian Negotiator Saeb Erekat claimed that PM Barak had agreed to remove all Jewish residents from Hebron as part of the implementation of them final-status agreements at the Camp David Summit. While PM's Office issued a denial, saying that there was no truth to these ideas and these things were not brought up at any stage of Camp David. *JPost*

August 13, 2000

- According to *Al-Quds Daily*, scores of Jewish settlers captured hilltops in the West Bank to establish two random settlements after erecting several caravans on the sites.

August 14, 2000

- As part of the Israeli occupation policy to confiscate more Palestinian land to bring in more settlers and to limit the Palestinian freedom to build houses, the Israeli bulldozers demolished two Palestinian houses in Silwan neighborhood, in East Jerusalem, and forced a third to be demolished by its owners. The homes belonged to Muhammad Al-Tawil 45, Jamal Idkedek, 36, and Abed Abu Nab, 46, and they were destroyed because they were in the path of plans for the construction of the eastern ring road of Jerusalem. According to the Palestinian Society for Human rights and Environment, the Israeli occupation

authorities have demolished as many as 50 Palestinian structures in East Jerusalem since the beginning of the year 2000. *Haaretz PIC, & Quds*

- The Israeli occupation authorities started to transfer the checkpoint of Kedumim settlement, which is erected on Kafr Qaddum village in Qalqilyah district to the entrance of the town. *Quds*

August 15, 2000

- Kafr Qaddum village, which is lying in Qalqilyah district, is facing a new settlement assault by Kedumim settlers in order to confiscate more Palestinian land. According to the article, Kafr Qaddum villagers resist the Israeli bulldozers, which sought to bulldoze 30 dunums of land cultivated with fully- grown olive trees and owned by the Palestinian inhabitant Mohammed Ishtiwi. Meanwhile, the Israeli authorities started bulldozing inside areas of confiscated land estimated at 1500 dunums from Izza village near Qalqilya, in an attempt to construct new settlement outposts related to Alfei Menashe colon. *Quds*

August 16, 2000

- PM Barak plans to transfer full control over Joseph's Tomb in Nablus to the Palestinians as part of the interim settlement, even before a final status agreement is achieved, according to a statement released by the Yesha Council of Jewish settlements of West Bank and Gaza Strip. *Haaretz*
- Israeli occupation authorities started bulldozing a 200-dunum plot owned by Beit Jala citizens, close to Bethlehem district, as a preparation to expand Gilo settlement. This expansion aims not only expanding the settlement but also Jerusalem's borders at the expense of Palestinian inhabitants. On the other side, Jewish bulldozers accompanied by the Israeli military border uprooted 150 olive and fig trees planted on 20 dunums of land and belonging to Husan, Wadi Fukin and Nahhalin villagers, in Bethlehem district in order to expand the nearby Bitar settlement ; *Jadeeda*

August 17, 2000

- The Israeli sides continued buildings works in the residence of Sham'oon in Al-Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood aimed at absorbing a large number of Jewish visitors. In addition, the Israeli authorities put

its hand on the lands that are close to the exist cave and seized a number of houses under the pretext of being Jewish properties. *Quds*

- In Bethlehem District, the settlers of Betar expropriated a plot of agricultural lands and erected a number of mobile houses aiming at expanding the settlement. On the other hand, the Israeli authorities confiscated plots of lands and uprooted 150 olive trees belonging to Palestinian inhabitants from Al- Lubban village, near to Ramallah district; *Quds*
- An elderly Palestinian man called Dawoud Mohammed Hassan, 84 years old, dreams to turn back his land, which was seized by Israel. He added also that the house of the Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak was built on his land and his family was dismissed to Jordan. *Quds*

August 18, 2000

- The municipality of Jerusalem intends to demolish several additional buildings in the ancient city of Jerusalem, under the pretext of being built without permits. This pronouncement was as a result of the municipality community decision to refuse the endorsement of additional buildings. *Quds*

August 19, 2000

- A Palestinian child, Mu'ein Talahmeh, 12 years old, from the village of Al-Burj, southwest of Hebron, died when an explosive device left over by the Israeli occupation forces exploded. According to Law society, Mu'ein Talahmeh is the third child to die in just over a month and a half as a result of an explosion caused by devices left by Israeli authorities. *Quds*

August 20, 2000

- A report released by the Israeli "Peace Now" group, stating that a majority of the West Bank outposts that were to be dismantled or frozen, according to last October's agreement between PM Ehud Barak and the council of Jewish communities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has not been. In December, Ehud Barak announced a freeze on all construction in the West Bank until the conclusion of final-status talks with the Palestinians. Though only 17 of 42 settlements have received authorization to uild, many of the remaining 25 have been building illegally. According to the report, among the 17 settlements

that were frozen, 64% have continued to build, including Itamar, Elkana, Eli, Ofra, Kedumim and Shvut Rahel. Additionally, the report found that only four of eight outposts that were supposed to be evacuated actually were. *JPost*

August 21, 2000

- According to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), the first quarter of 2000 saw an 81% increase in construction in the Jewish settlements. The figures show that in the first three months of this year, work began on 1,000 new buildings, compared to 550 in the last quarter of 1999. The greatest increase came in private construction, which rose by 141% (410 units in the first quarter of 2000, compared to 170 the previous quarter). While construction works on public buildings increase by 55% (590 new buildings compared to 380 in the previous quarter). *Haaretz*

August 23, 2000

- In Qalqiliya District, the Israeli authorities continued bulldozing wide areas of 'Isla and 'Azzun villages, aiming at establishing a new Jewish settlement called "Givat Tal". The new settlement outpost, which is close to Alfei Menashe is threatening about 500 dunums of land as a preparation to be expropriated for the settlement construction. In addition, it is estimated that the extent of destroyed lands has reached more than 150 dunums. *Quds*

August 24, 2000

- A Palestinian Jerusalemite Mustafa Ma'afad, at the age of 29, from Khan al-Sultan, Jerusalem was wounded due to an assault done by a number of settlers, while his coming back from work. According to eyewitnesses, there were more than 15 persons who attacked Mustafa and that his family was always exposed to assaults. *Quds*

August 25, 2000

- According to Israeli weekly press, "Yeroshleim", Jewish contractors were able to sell 700 housing units from 1550 units that were offered for marketing in Abu-Ghneim Mountain (Har Homa settlement), Jerusalem; *Quds*

- The Israeli government led by Ehud Barak issued recently a new tender to construct 33 new settlement housing units on 11-dunums of confiscated land of Al- Khadr village, south of Bethlehem in order to expand that settlement. According to a report published by the Israeli “Peace Now” group, Barak government issued tenders for building 3419 new settlement housing units on Palestinian lands in the West Bank since his tenure (July1999). *Ayyam*

August 27, 2000

- A group of settlers from Ravava set fire on 200 (15 to 30 years old) fully-grown olive trees belonged to Fathi and Mounther Salman from Deir Istiya village, northwest of Salfit. Adnan Salman confirmed that this is the second time in less than three months where Ravava settlers set fire on a piece of land owned by Al-Mashni family. *Jadeeda*

August 28, 2000

- In Shu’fat village of Jerusalem District, the Israeli bulldozers demolished 3 houses belonging to the Palestinian inhabitants: Ali Saleh, Ahmad Izghari and Muhamad Abu Ghaliya in order to expand the nearby settlement of Pisgat Zeev. *Jadeeda & PIC*
- An explosive device left over, by the Israeli authorities has killed another Palestinian child. Nassar Muhamad Ka’abneh, 15 years old was killed when he was grazing his family cattle in Al Buokai’a village, in Jordan Valley. Nassar is the fourth Palestinian victim to die of Israeli explosive this year. *PIC*

August 30, 2000

- Israel’s Construction and Organization Council of Bet El settlement dispatched eviction orders to the Palestinian brothers Abdo and Mohamad Karshan from ‘Anata village, east of Jerusalem to evacuate their lands as a preparation to be destroyed. Thus, the soldier borders gave them 24 hours to carry out the order and deport Al-Salman hamlet, in ‘Anata village. *Quds & Jadeeda*
- The settlers of Gush Etzion Bloc, which is constructed at the expense of Bethlehem villages, occupied a Palestinian hilltop close to Nahhalin and Al-Khadr villages, where they set up 20 mobile homes one year ago. On the other hand, the Israeli authorities issued a demolition order to the house of Saleh Al’Araj from El Walajeh village, near Bethlehem. Moreover, the Israeli authorities sent notices to confiscate

250 dunums of land from ‘Arab ar Rashayda village near Bethlehem, and owned by the citizen ‘Ali Owdeh. At the same time, the Israeli bulldozers cut down more than 70 olive trees owned by villagers from kafr Thulth, in Qalqiliya District. *Quds & Jadeeda*

- The Palestinian national Authority has managed to prevent illegal land purchase of 61 dunums from Betunia City to a colonist from Givat Zeev. The Jewish land dealer used forged documents in his attempt to acquire the land. *Quds*

August 31, 2000

- Tuqu’ village, east of Bethlehem, is exposed to Israeli assaults. Israeli bulldozers started to open new settlement by-pass roads which threatened 10 thousands dunums of lands to be seized. On the other hand, in Qalqiliya District, Afnei Hefetz settlement, which is constructed on Shufa village, hindered the villagers from reaching their lands, in an attempt to confiscate about 300 dunums belonged to the inhabitants Ahmad yacoub and Rifa’t Hamed. *Qud*

District	Land Confiscated	Land Threatened	Uprooted /Confiscated/ Burnt/razed Trees	House Demolished	Threatened Houses
Jerusalem	0	0	0	6	0
Qalqilyia	30	800	670	0	0
Bethlehem	470	0	150	0	1
Ramallah	0	0	150	0	0
Salfit	0	0	200	0	0
Total	500	800	1170	6	1

The Monthly overview report gives a list of the Israeli Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory which are based on reports provided by field workers and/or by one or more of the following news sources: Al-Ayyam daily newspaper, Al-Quds daily newspaper, Palestinian National Information Center, Haaretz Daily Newspaper, The Jerusalem Post - English-language daily newspaper, International Press Center, Palestine News Agency-Wafa, Ma'an News Agency, and Yediot Achronot.

The text is not quoted directly from the sources but is edited for size and clarity.

The Monthly report does not necessarily reflect ARIJ's opinion.

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